Timeline of the Alles Cabin at Atwell's Mill

1867	Phil Alles was born on June 1 to Conrad and Christina Alles.
1879	Isham Dykes "Doc" Mullenix homesteaded the 160 acre mill site during the Mineral King silver rush. Homestead located on the trail leading to Mineral King. John Crowley was granted the franchise from Tulare County to build a wagon road to reach the mines. He, Tom Fowler, and several others financed the building of this road. "Doc" Mullenix began splitting redwood shakes to roof the miners' cabins and other buildings at Harry's Bend, Beulah, Silver City, and other places along the way. He used redwood logs and did all the work by hand, first cutting the logs into bolds (short rounds of the proper length from which to split shakes), then splitting the shakes using a frow.
1883	Mullenix proved out on his homestead. With the silver rush bottoming out, and the market for shakes ending with it, "Doc" sold his original 160 acres in 1886 to Judge A.J. Atwell, a prominent businessman and politician in Visalia who served for a time in the State assembly. Mullenix held out a small portion from this sale where the family cabin was located—the site of the present Atwell Ranger Station. Atwell logged mostly pine, fir and cedar from his 160 acres.
1887	Grace Mullenix was born on February 7. She and her sister, Rose, spent their childhood summers in the Mullenix cabin.
1890	Judge Atwell passed away. Conrad Alles, Jr. (1874-1953), and later, his brothers, Dan and Phil, worked at the mill for Mrs. Atwell and for the Mt. Whitney Power Company. Sequoia National Park was established.
1891	The mill was leased to the Kaweah Colony, who worked it during that summer.
1896	After the Colony gave up its lease, Henry Alles (1866 - ?) and Jeff Davenport (or Bettencourt?) took over the mill operation.
1898 - 1903	Alles and Davenport subleased the mill to the Mt. Whitney Power Company, which cut the redwoods to build the flume from Oak Grove to Hammond. This flume carried water to the penstock which powered Power House Number One. Southern California Edison still operates this Power House which includes an exhibit, just south of where the Mineral King Road joins Hwy. 198.
1901	The present cabin was built by Hamilton Moffett, the Tulare County Supervisor for the area at that time. He first went to Mrs. Atwell and asked her to sell him a lot. She refused, saying there were already too many cabins in the area. Moffett wanted a place in the mountains to take his ill daughter to improve her health. Since Mrs. Atwell would not sell him a lot, he carried lumber on his back up the hill from the mill and built the cabin in the middle of the county road, and re-routed the county road around the cabin where it sits today.
1902	Henry Alles bought Atwell's Mill, and ran it until 1918. Grace Mullenix and Phil Alles were married. Age 15
1904 - 1905	Dams were built on Wolverton Creek and at Monarch, Crystal, Franklin and Eagle Lakes above Mineral King using lumber milled at Atwell's Mill.
1909	Phil and Grace Alles bought the 1901 Moffett cabin.
1914	"Doc" Mullenix was the first Park Ranger at Atwell's Mill and served until 1917.
1916	National Park Service formed to "preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources."
1920	Phil Alles bought the mill from his brother, Henry, and took over its operations.
1925	Atwell's mill is sold to Mr. Skinner, who deeded it to the National Geographic Society, which then deeded to the National Park Service. *(How this reconciles with the following three entries is not clear.)*
1926	Grace Alles assists her daughter, Rena, in delivering her baby granddaughter, Alice Norene Ogilvie in the Alles cabin.
1937	Phil Alles moved the mill to Silver City, with the permission of Walter Wells.
1938	Phil Alles sold the mill to Walter Wells. Philip continued to operate it for Wells until he had enough lumber to build Kaweah Han, the Wells' place on the river. The mill was then sold to a man in Springville.
1953	After her husband, Phil's death on November 16, Grace Alles continued to come to her cabin at Atwell's Mill each summer until she was no longer able to make the trip, perhaps a few years before her death.
1981	Grace Alles passed away at the age of 94 on January 10.

Note: This timeline is a work in progress. Corrections will be included in future printing. 8/2007.

2023.009.0537a

5 Tips For Better Narratives

1. In determining the length of a narrative, check the guidelines for the shop for any specific requirements. If there are none, a good rule of thumb is two-three sentences per major subsection (not each question)--i.e. greeting; transaction. Also explain any "no answers" if required, or you feel it is important, as well as anything else that is particularly striking--positive or negative.

2. To know what to emphasize, again look at the shop guidelines and the shop forms. But then put yourself in the role of the mystery shopping company's client. You did the shop and found out certain information. If you were the owner of the client company, what would you have hoped someone who just had the experience you did with one of his/her employees would say? Use that point-of-view to guide you.

3. Watch out for getting too emotional in your narratives. Sometimes shoppers will have unsettling experiences that affect them, and their emotions shows up in the report rather than their objective research findings. Remember, you are a researcher, and researchers report facts. Recently, one of my coaching clients had a bad experience during a restaurant shop and his distress clearly showed in the report I reviewed for him. His assessment was "Johnny my waiter was just awful". That doesn't cut it. You can say "I was disappointed in Johnny's service because he spilled my salad on my lap and didn't even apologize". See the difference?

4. Make sure you provide a detailed summary of your experience not a blow-by-blow description. I've read some narratives that go something like this. "Susie invited me to sit down. Susie then took out a guest card. Susie asked me my name. I answered." Besides putting everyone to sleep, that's not what was requested. To give the same information, you could say "Susie invited me to sit down, and immediately made note of my name on a guest card". Better, right?

5. Watch for errors which can lower the quality of your narrative. Common mistakes include: misspellings, horrible grammar, failure to use complete sentences, lack of synonyms and starting off every sentence in the same way (i.e. "he said", or "I"). Take a few seconds and read your report out loud to yourself. If you don't like it, chances are that the company you are working with won't either.

So no need to fear narratives, which are regularly part of some of the higher-paying service category shops. Use these 5 tips to turn in your best reports and watch more repeat requests for your services come your way.

2023.009.0537 b